Build, own, lease—transfer scheme

*335. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new scheme of the Railways known as 'Build, own, lease-trasfer' has begun;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme;

(c) which are the areas and projects where the scheme is working;

(d) what are the difficulties, if any, being faced under the scheme; and

(e) what steps will be taken to make the scheme more effective?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under BOLT scheme, private entrepreneurs and financial institutions are invited to build/manufacture/arrange finances and lease the assets to the Railways. Lease charges are paid, in turn, to the entrepreneurs, for the use of assets during the period of lease on terms and conditions mutually agreed upon. On the expiry of the lease period, the asset is transferred to a nominee of the Railways. Under the BOLT scheme, entrepreneurs are selected after inviting open bids for the project to be executed.

(c) Two Guage Conversion projects for Viramgam-Mehsana section on Western Railway and Mudkhed-Adilabad section on South Central Railway, and one Rolling Stock project for Wagons have awarded under this scheme. Twenty three projects (6 for Gauge Conversion, 1 for Doubling, 3 for Railway Electrification, 3 for Telecom, 4 for Rolling Stock and 6 for Track Machines) are under process.

(d) Normally, the costs and lease charges, quoted by the bidders are on a very high side as compared to the Railways estimates. Also some times the bidders quote certain special conditions which do not fit in the scheme and are not acceptable. In some cases, the response is very poor.

(e) Wide publicity to the scheme will be given through media of mass communication and seminars with a view to invite increased participation. Changes in the conditions as are acceptable to the Railway are also being constantly made to make the scheme acceptable.

Manufacturing of Rail Sleepers

*336. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many factories are presently sanctioned for manufacture of rail sleepers;

(b) whether manufacturing of rail sleepers are given on contract basis;

(c) whether any SC/ST candidate has so far been awarded such a contract;

(d) how many applications from SC/ST candidates are pending; and

(e) whether the reservation percentage for SC/ST will be maintained in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The number of factories currently approved/sanctioned for manufacturing and supplying Rail (Track) sleepers are as under:—

Cast Iron Sleepers	— 57 Nos.
Steel Sleepers	— 7 Nos.
Concrete Sleepers	—72 Nos.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Contracts are awarded on the basis of financial cum technical capability of the firms. No record has been maintained so far regarding the fact whether the firms to whom the contracts are awarded after inviting the tenders belong to SC/ST categories or not.

(d) No application is pending for disposal at present.

(e) This policy is under consideration.